

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OC-01 CCO-00 /056 W
----- 097359

R 180745Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0924

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EO 11652N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ACOM, US, US

SUBJ: UNACCOMPANIED SURFACE POUCHES TO HELSINKI

REF: A) LENINGRAD 1195 B) WILKINSON/KING TELECON 12/01/74

1. REF B REPORTED MFA REP BOYZOV CALLED EMBOFF TO EXPRESS
CONFUSION OVER JUST WHAT LENINGRAD WANTED TO DO WITH POUCHES.
BOYZOV SAID DISPATCH OF UNACCOMPANIED POUCHES MIGHT REQUIRE
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS, AND SUGGESTED EASIEST WAY
OUT MIGHT BE FOR FOR LENINGRAD TO OBTAIN TICKET NUMBERS OF MOSCOW
COURIERS IN ADVANCE DOCUMENT BAGS AS PART OF COURIERS' BAGGAGE
AND PUT BAGS IN BAGGAGE CAR WHEN TRAIN GOES THROUGH
LENINGRAD

2. CONGEN CAN SEE NO REASON FOR CONFUSION IN MFA'S MIND AS
OUR DIPLOMATIC NOTE SPECIFIED VERY PRECISELY THAT WE WANT TO
SEND UNACCOMPANIED POUCHES LENINGRAD/HELSINKI, PUTTING
THEM ON TRAIN WHICH HAPPENS TO BE USED BY MOSCOW COURIERS.

3. CONGEN DOES NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE COERCED INTO
RIDING COATTAILS OF MOSCOW/HELSINKI RUN, EVEN SOVIET
INTERNAL LAW (NOTED REFTTEL) PROVIDES FOR USE OF "ORDINARY"
MEANS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN DIP/CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS
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WITHIN AND WITHOUT USSR BORDERS, AND WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO

SEND MATERIAL UNACCOMPANIED AT OUR DISCRETION.

4. FROM AN INTERNAL OPERATIONAL POINT OF VIEW, WE FEEL A TAG-ALONG SCHEME PRESENTS AT LEAST TWO PROBLEMS: A) THE MOSCOW/HELSINKI COURIER RUN IS SOMETIMES CANCELLED; AND B) WE DO NOT RELISH THE THOUGHT OF IMPOSING ON MOSCOW'S ALREADY BUSY ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL WITH WEEKLY QUERIES AS TO TICKET NUMBERS, CAR ASSIGNMENTS, ETC.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY REEMPHASIZING TO MFA THAT REQUEST IS FOR GENERAL ARRANGMENTS TO SHIP UNACCOMPANIED DIPLOMATIC BAGS LENINGRAD/HELSINKI BY TRAIN.
NEUBERT

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Message Attributes

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